

2003

Class Action, Fall/Winter 2003

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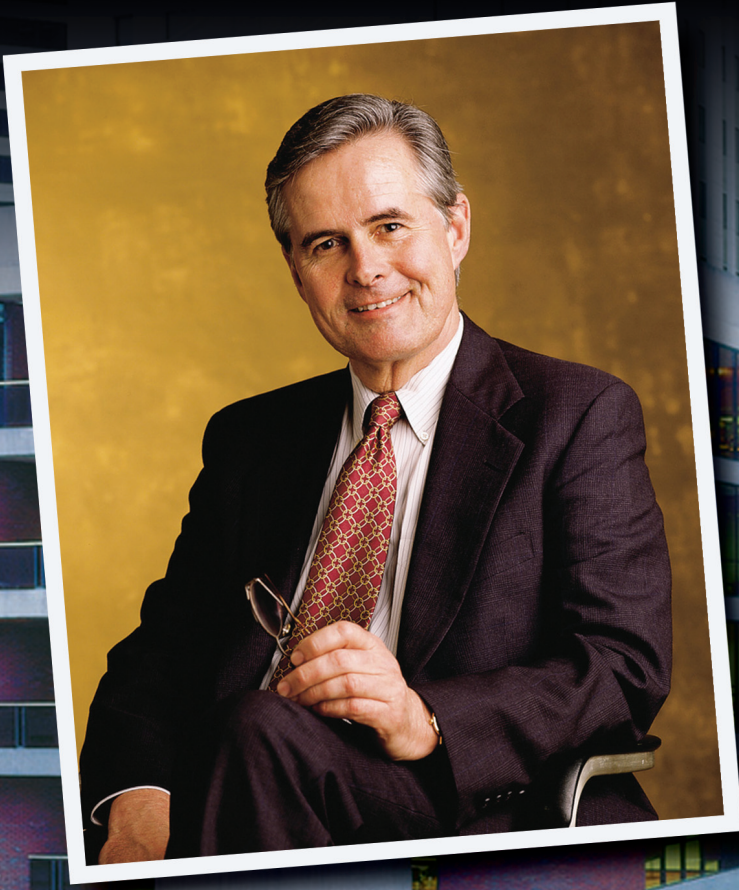
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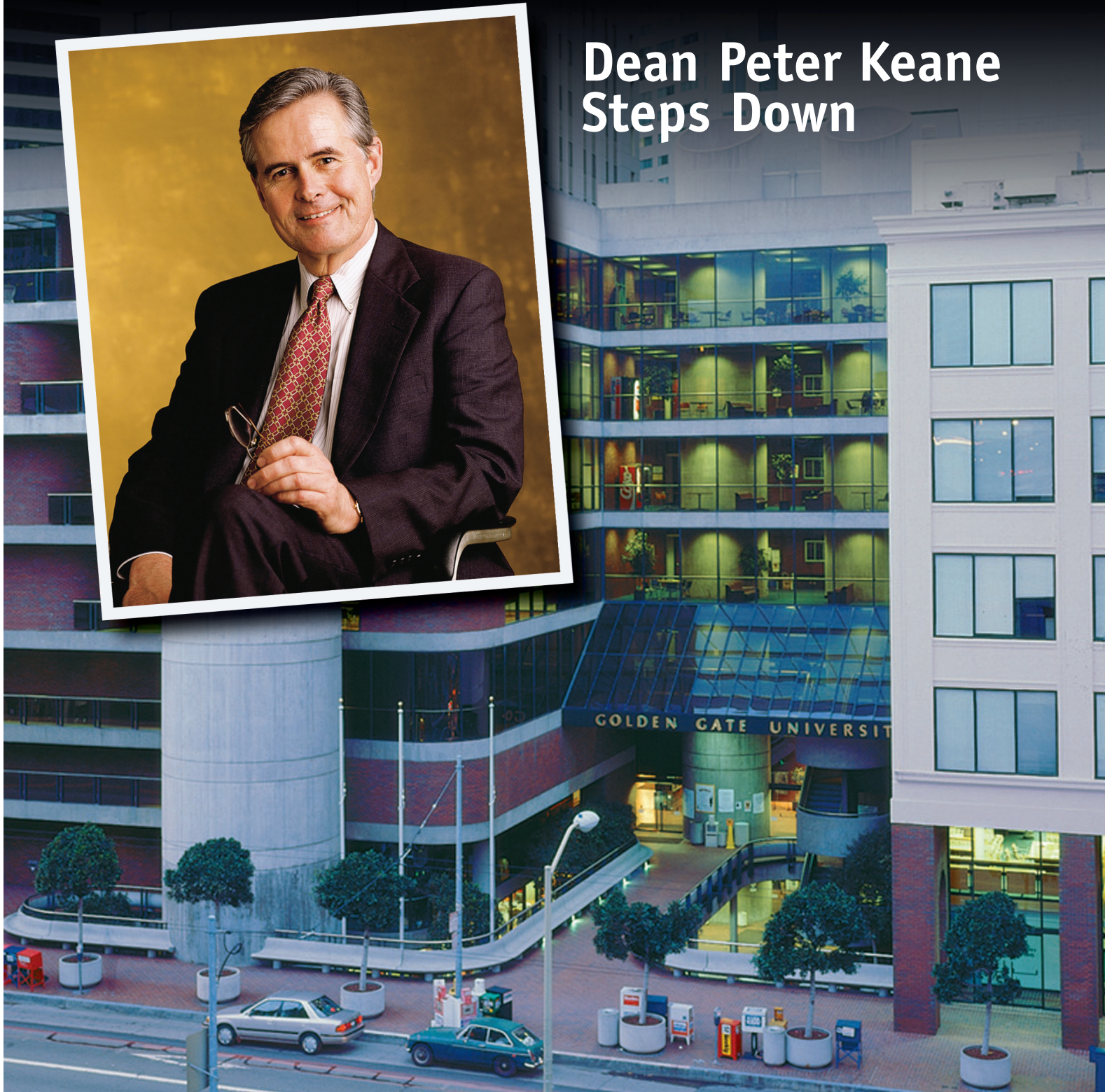
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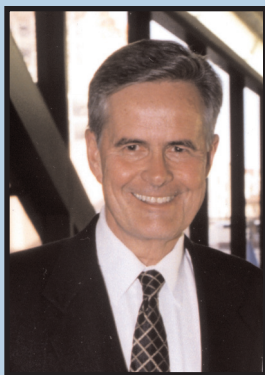
FALL/WINTER 2003



Dean Peter Keane Steps Down



Also in this issue: The Honor Roll of Giving for 2002 – 03



One of the most pleasant aspects of my final semester as dean of the law school is taking some time to reflect on the past few years and remember the highlights that will become part of our institutional memory. Brilliant professors, motivated students, and an outstanding staff keep things running smoothly. The support of generous alumni and friends presents a financial picture of hope and promise.

Students are at the core of all that we do at the Law School, and I am pleased to report that the record of academic and co-curricular achievement has been steadily climbing. A GGU law degree is in demand. Our first-year class is our biggest class ever (we have four day sections). We continue to pride ourselves on being the law school that gives people an opportunity for a legal education and a career in law. While we continue to admit students with increasing LSAT scores and GPAs, we will always look beyond the mere numbers to welcome students who have other life experiences that demonstrate their ability to succeed as lawyers. We continue to attract applicants with a diversity of backgrounds who will enrich our law school community.

In this issue, I get the chance to talk about my experiences being dean for five years. This is my last message to you as dean of the School of Law. I want to go back to my first loves: teaching and writing. That is what originally drew me to Golden Gate, and I want to be a more direct part of educating of the next generation of students.

In my time as dean, many good things have happened. We're on stable footing with a future that is bright financially and economically. The Honor Roll of Donors, included in this issue, is not only a report about numbers, but about the people—people who show their pride in GGU by giving back to the place that helped them take their lives in new directions. Listed on these pages are the names of people who make Golden Gate University School of Law an amazing place to teach and learn. Some 536 alumni and friends contributed financial gifts to the Law School totaling \$780,840. More than 120 alumni volunteers gave their time to make the Law School a place where students want to learn and teachers want to teach.

I thank you all for the generosity you have shown to the School of Law during my tenure as dean. Let us go forward together in the coming year with the same enthusiasm, proving that GGU's School of Law offers the best practical legal education you can get.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Peter". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Peter G. Keane
Dean

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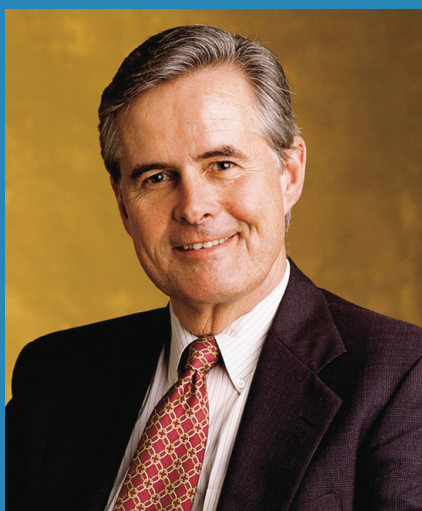
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Lorri Ungaretti

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Memories



In My Years as Dean

by Peter G. Keane



Pictured above, top: In January 2001, I traveled to Cuba with a delegation of lawyers, judges, and law professors. **Pictured above, bottom:** A film series organized by Adjunct Professor Terry Diggs (left), featured interviews with impressive newsmakers including Jeff Adachi, Fred Karamatsu, and Sox Kiteshima.

The past five years as dean of Golden Gate University School of Law have been one of the most professionally satisfying and personally rewarding periods in my life. This is a great law school with a wonderful tradition and a terrific future. I have been very much blessed to be a part of it.

A year ago, the university offered me a second five-year term as dean. I declined. I said I wanted to step down and teach as a full-time professor. I am a great believer in the importance of knowing when to leave. I have attended many ABA meetings during the last five years and have seen too many deans who stayed beyond their time. Five years as a law school dean is enough. I did everything I set out to do, so it is best to quit while I am ahead. Here are some of my thoughts as I do my swan song.

The most outstanding component of this school is, and always will be, the students. They have a gritty, upbeat determination that is more than admirable. They are here to become lawyers, but each also hangs on to that identity and individuality that makes him or her unique. There is no cookie-cutter quality to our students. Each has a fresh and genuine humanity that defies stereotyping. Best of all, they share the colorful richness of themselves while they are here, helping to create a vibrant atmosphere. In my opinion, the greatest defining attribute of this law school is that it allows students to nurture their own particular qualities and blend them all into the professional people they will become as practicing lawyers.



Attending alumni reunions was always a lot of fun. It was great to learn what our graduates were doing. **Pictured at left:** Fresno area alumni gathered for lunch in October 2000. **Pictured below:** I met some of our Bay Area alumni in June 2000 when Golden Gate University President Philip Friedman sponsored a luncheon at his home in Walnut Creek.



During the school year 2001–02, we completely renovated the Law School classrooms at Golden Gate. In February, the Dean's Advisory Board (**pictured at right**) met to tour the construction site.

On September 19, 2002, President Friedman and I (**pictured in middle**) unveiled the new classrooms with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

I enjoy teaching in the new, state-of-the-art lecture halls (**pictured above**).



During the 30 years I practiced law in San Francisco, I saw these special characteristics in lawyers who were alumni of Golden Gate. They have a fierce dedication to their clients and to their profession. They work hard and diligently because they know that success is not just going to drop into their laps. This in itself puts them ahead of the game in dealing with many of their colleagues from other law schools who do not have this signature, common-sense attribute that goes with a law degree from Golden Gate.

Our alumni also have an empathy for the problems of their clients and an understanding of the importance of helping out people who are struggling in life and having a difficult time of it. This empathy brings with it one of

the greatest skills that a lawyer can have: the skill of listening. Unfortunately, so many lawyers never develop this skill because they have the false idea that they are better than their clients—more intelligent and more important—merely because they are lawyers. The majority of Golden Gate lawyers never lose that common touch of democracy that goes with the Mission Street experience. This enormous talent serves them and their clients well.

So one of the great joys for me as dean has been the students. It is a true pleasure to watch the new students arrive, get to know them, follow their progress, talk to them, counsel them, learn from them and, finally, hand them their diplomas at graduation.

One of the real pleasures of stepping down as dean will be full-time teaching as a law professor...

It means greater day-to-day contact with the students. It means being more directly involved in shaping their legal training and molding them as lawyers. I look forward to this exciting and pleasurable time.

For me as dean, the next best thing has been getting to know the alumni. The alums are, after all, just the students who have shifted into drive gear and are out there displaying the benefits of this school. Over my five years as dean, I got to know, firsthand, the



Pictured at right: In the summer of 2002, I joined President Phil Friedman (left) and Associate Dean Sompong Sucharitkul (far right) at an alumni reunion at the Law School's annual summer study abroad program in Bangkok.



In 2001 Golden Gate University School of Law celebrated 100 years in San Francisco with a variety of special events.

Pictured top left: At the centennial alumni reception, my wife Nancy (far right) and I met with Hon. Anne Bouliane (80) and Adjunct Professor Hon. Maria-Elena James (second from left). Pictured top right: I presented a Power Point review of the history of the Law School.



stories of hundreds of our alumni. To an Irishman like me who loves to talk and who loves to tell stories and hear them, a job that not only includes, but also requires, schmoozing and socializing with countless interesting people is an employment dream.

Much of the job of a dean is fundraising. Other deans around the country groan at the task. But I love fundraising. The alumni of Golden Gate University School of Law are incredibly generous. They recognize that they have an investment in this school—in the education it gave them, in the value of its reputation, and in the worth of its degree. They have always responded wholeheartedly when I've asked them to contribute to the school. I will always appreciate that great generosity. Even more, I feel deeply rewarded by the personal relationships and friendships I developed with alumni. I will cherish, build on, and nurture those relationships for a long time to come.

The staff of the School of Law never seems to get the credit they so richly deserve. They are some of the most dedicated people I have ever encountered. They are also some of

the brightest, most creative, and nicest people one could find anywhere. Most of them are awesomely overqualified but are driven by a love for the school and for the students. I have worked with them daily and am often awed by their commitment and enormous effort. If I could, I would triple the salary of most of the staff. The contribution they make to the success of the school is so outstanding, and often so selfless, that the rest of us could take a great lesson from their example.

As for the faculty, I know I need to tread lightly here since I will soon be one of them on a full-time basis. But from the vantage point of being dean, it is apparent that they are loved and admired by the students and by the alumni who credit them fondly, and deservedly, for so much of their success.

We have a unique faculty here. Many of us come from considerable experience in the actual practice of law, not just from the hothouse nurturing of academia...

They bring their understanding and mastery of the real world of law practice to their teaching. This quality gives our graduates a significant edge when they serve their clients and deliver legal services. It also distinguishes Golden Gate from just about every other law school in the country. It is also the most important thing that we must work hard to keep, if we are to stay true to our roots and to the value of our identity.

As I step down as dean, I can happily report that this law school is in excellent shape. We completed a \$20 million renovation of all of the Law School classrooms, auditoriums, and seminar rooms. We now have modern, state-of-the-art, technologically equipped facilities. We established an intellectual property program, which offers more than 25 courses and has blossomed into a rapidly growing LL.M. program.

In 2001, Golden Gate University School of Law celebrated its centennial, 100 years of providing a legal education in San Francisco. As part of our ceremonies, we sponsored a film series that featured impressive historical and political figures; a mock trial at the Palace Hotel set in 1906 after the San Francisco earthquake and featuring local celebrity Noah Griffin as opera tenor Enrico Caruso (who did indeed stay at the Palace that fateful night) suing the City of San Francisco; and an alumni banquet where graduates, faculty, staff, and students came together to celebrate.

Over the past five years, I made alumni relations and fundraising high priorities. One morning each week, I locked myself in my office to phone and talk to alumni. I constantly went to lunch and to other social events with alumni and with other friends of the Law School. On nights and weekends, I attended legal profession events and almost any other public event that I could. I never turned down a speaking invitation, no matter what the subject, unless I was already booked for another one.

On out-of-town trips, I gathered alumni together at receptions in New York, Chicago, Denver, Dallas, New Orleans, Albuquerque, Atlanta, Washington DC, Los Angeles, San Diego, Fresno, Modesto, Bakersfield, Portland, and Seattle. Alumni love these get-togethers. They reconnect to the school as they professionally and socially network with fellow alums who live and practice in their area.

My media appearances have raised public awareness of Golden Gate University School of Law to a national level...

The name "Golden Gate University School of Law" has been prominently featured on national TV and in *The New Yorker* magazine, as well as in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and a score of other newspapers. All of this is free advertising that a school could not buy—even if it spent millions of dollars to make itself an institution that everyone has heard of.

If this all sounds like blowing my own horn, it is, because I am immensely proud of all of these things.

I have loved being dean of this law school. It has been exhilarating for me and a lot of fun. In the future, hopefully for the rest of my professional career, I will still be a part of this law school. But I will do other things, as well. Whatever I do, I will try to make sure that it benefits our school. 📖

I am immensely proud of all of these things. I have loved being dean of this law school.



Pictured at left: I had the honor of welcoming five graduating classes to the world of law.



Pictured at right: As part of the centennial festivities, we staged a mock trial of world-renowned tenor Enrico Caruso suing the city of San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake. I represented the city.

PHOTO BY HEATHER KEANE



Mark Your Calendar!

The third annual **Intellectual Property Law Conference**, sponsored by GGU, will be held on Friday, March 5, 2004, at Golden Gate University.

For more information, check the "News & Events" section of www.ggu.edu/law after January, email ipllm@ggu.edu, or call (415) 442-6604.

COURT OF APPEAL RETURNS TO GOLDEN GATE

On Tuesday, October 28, the First Appellate District Division 4 heard its morning calendar at Golden Gate University School of Law. This is the second year that Golden Gate hosted the court's morning calendar.

Four cases were heard: *Buenrostro v. Guckenheimer*, A101135; *People v. McClendon*, A099293/A099191; *Hoffman v. State Bar*, A101491; and *People v. Jackson*, A101088.

A special thanks to Professor Myron Moskowitz for helping to make this event possible.

MOCK TRIAL TEAM VICTORY

In October, the GGU Mock Trial team defeated both Hastings and U.S.F. law schools on its way to winning the third annual SF Trial Lawyers Association Mock Trial Competition. GGU has won this "Best of the Bay" competition two out of three years.

The members of trial team were Anna Teruel, James Simmons, Aisha Meivis, and Autry James. The team was coached by Professor Bernie Segal, director of the litigation program and Adjunct Profesor Shahrard Milanfar (98).


GGU distinguished itself by being the only team in the competition that was called upon—by a quirk in the rules—to try both sides of the case of *Dr. Raymond Chandler vs. Premier Insurance Company*. The competition evaluators took note of this fact and that GGU was so well prepared that it could handle the challenge.

PILF Auction

Save **February 19, 2004**, for the annual PILF Auction at GGU. This is your chance to have a great time, buy great stuff, and support a great cause! Last year, the auction raised more than \$20,000, which allowed a number of law students to gain invaluable public internship experiences.

In previous years, PILF has auctioned fly-fishing, sailing, and golf lessons from professors; dinners and area tours with deans and professors; hula, yoga, and tennis lessons from student pros; and gift certificates at Bay Area restaurants, spas, and hotels. This year, we intend to offer even more enticing items and provide more grant dollars to help more law students begin to live their dreams of making justice available to all people.

We need you!

PILF invites alumni and others who share our spirit of public service to donate auction items, help spread the word and, of course, come to the auction on February 19. Contact PILF president Linda Bjorke at lbjorke@gguol.ggu.edu or auction chair Christine Stines at labasaleek@yahoo.com. 



Anatomy of a Miscarriage of Justice

On October 31, the School of Law sponsored a symposium to explore the cases of John Tonnison and Antoine Goff, who had been released after serving 13 years on wrongful murder convictions. Both men, their attorneys, and *San Francisco Bay Guardian* investigative reporter A.C. Thompson participated in the event.

Shown at left: Professor Susan Rutberg (behind), who coordinated the event. Front, left to right: Attorney Barry Melton, Public Defender Jeff Adachi, John Tonnison, and Antoine Goff.

A Cinderella Story

Commencement Address by Judge Maria-Elena James, May 16, 2003

To you graduates: As someone who has gone through it, I know that law school has been a long journey, and today's celebration has been a long time coming.

I, too, once stood where you're standing, on the threshold of something grand, resplendent with promise. That is why I behold you now with reverence and satisfaction. I am as proud of your accomplishment as if it were mine.

One of the first questions I'm asked when people meet me is whether I have always wanted to be a judge. Now, I do not like disappointing people, but mine is more of a Cinderella story, minus the fairy godmother, the glass slippers, the pumpkin—or the prince.

Most of you who know me know that my earliest career goal was to be a princess. I spent most of my childhood in preparation for that career by reading every fairy tale book in the public library. My dreams were not in black and white, but in regal purple. I wrapped my ambitions of royalty around me like a velvet cloak that protected me from the mundane reality of daily life in La Mirada, where I grew up. One day, I realized that the circle of people around me were not my court, I did not live in a castle, and I had no servants. These unruly subjects were my nine brothers and sisters, and I was babysitting because both of my parents worked full time. There would be no lavender evening gowns, no fancy balls, no diamond tiaras, and no glass slippers.

My reality was that I was the eldest daughter of 10 kids living in a house with three-and-a-half bedrooms—and only one-and-a-half bathrooms. Many of us went to law school so we did not have to do math, but you can easily calculate how many minutes I had to get ready for school. As the eldest daughter, I was in charge of my brothers and sisters. I dictated orders, mediated disputes, issued sanctions, enforced rulings, cooked for 12, and on top of that, changed lots of diapers.

This Cinderella was not amused.



After it became fairly obvious that the royal family was never coming to claim their missing heir and whisk me away from the Orange County suburbs, I changed my career path. I was 12 and had just seen the movie *A Nun's Story* with Audrey Hepburn. Audrey looked so serene, so beautiful and so divine. Her performance inspired me to become spiritual. I decided to dedicate my life to God and transcend the earthly chaos of my family. My second career choice was to become a nun.

I remained faithful to my new vocation until my mother's sister, Marie-Annette, came to stay for two weeks. Now, Sister Marie-Annette actually *is* a nun, and her visit provided me with a vision of my future—without the Hollywood spin. I was not deterred by the lifelong commitment to helping others; after all, I was used to babysitting my brothers and sisters. But back then, my aunt wore the nun's traditional black robe called a habit. One day, several days into her visit, I realized that she wore that same black robe every single day—day in, day out. It dawned on me that in order to be a nun I, too, would have to wear the same black robe, *for the rest of my life*, day in and day out.

You are looking at a woman who, even at age 12, could barely restrict her clothing changes to three times a day. I was not too keen on the prospect of getting up very early in the morning and praying all day long either. Finally, there was the prohibition against dating. That turned out to be the real deal-breaker. My hormones were just kicking in, and even God could not compete with Bobby Sherman or Sidney Poitier. With great humility, I must confess that sisterhood was my shortest career goal.

Now, some 30 years later, as fate would have it, look at me—I have a job where I wear the same black robe every single day. I have to get up early in the morning. And, while issuing my decisions, I am basically praying all day long that justice has been dispensed.

Is there no escape from karma?

Luckily, I believe that individual courage, a good education, a great hairdresser, and a keen sense of style can overcome myriad obstacles, and if it can't help you change your fate, it can at least help you change your wardrobe.

[At this point, Judge James removed her black robe to reveal the shimmering regalia you see in the photo on page 7.]

Now, I know you are all wondering, why is Judge James wearing this fabulous purple robe? Those of you who know me have probably figured out that I am tired of wearing that same old black robe. But it is really because purple is not only the symbol of royalty—and I have declared myself a princess—but also of courage.

Quite simply, this is my message to you today: As you leave the safe haven of your family, community, and this university to embark on a new journey, drape yourself in courage. Up to this point, you have been defined by one standard: your academic ability. But I tell you, the qualities and strength of character that dreams are made of are not measured by academic performance alone.

At this moment, the one thing that is certain is that the woman, the man, the lawyer you will be in the future is unknown. Walking toward uncertainty is a daunting task. How do you weather this wearying, long, and winding journey?

You need to fail—of course, you must do it with as much grace as possible—but you must fail. You must understand that it takes courage to embrace your failures. You must learn from those failures and go on to the next challenge. And I will tell you this: You will learn more about yourself from your failures than you ever will know from your successes.

Ours is not a culture that easily tolerates failure, though in truth I can think of no one who has succeeded without it. Our moments of testing and maturity are determined by how we deal with life's inevitable failures. Where there is failure, there is life. It is life's failures that help us move towards excellence. Failure teaches us what success is.

As you strive for excellence, understand that excellence is the willingness to be caught learning. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Step out of your comfort zone and walk purposefully away from that false image of perfection that does not tolerate mistakes, the perfection that takes pride in merely looking good. Don't be afraid to look the fool. Just don't stay the fool. Keep learning, keep asking, keep being the student. Let humility lead the way. Dream big and be willing to fail.

Your degree is not a mark of perfection; it is a license to succeed—and to fail. Those who seek to keep it pristine will never really practice law . . . or really live life.

I can still recall my own graduation from law school back in 1978. It was held in an auditorium much like this one. All of my nine brothers and sisters; my mom and dad; and various aunts, uncles, and cousins were there. When I crossed that stage, I realized how important it was to stack the deck. My huge, proud, beaming

family cheered so loud it sounded like a stampede (a stampede of platform shoes, bad perms, and polyester disco suits because all the guys wanted to be John Travolta).

But as my family cheered, I remember the naked fear that gripped my heart as I wondered: Would I ever be able to pass the bar, ever be a bone-fide attorney. Would I fail?

Many of my failures occurred even before I was admitted to law school. For example, I was a senior social ecology major at the University of California, Irvine, with the dream of becoming a lawyer. Now, you must understand something, and I'm telling you this history for context. In 1974, there were very few black lawyers practicing in private law firms or the government. There were few women lawyers, even fewer black women lawyers, and black women judges were scarcer still. My desire to become a lawyer was daunting. But I had a dream.

I asked a professor I respected greatly to write me a recommendation for law school. After learning of my less-than-stellar LSAT score and unimpressive GPA, he declined to write me the letter. I stood outside of the old Social Ecology building weeping. I was crushed by his refusal and felt deeply rejected by him.

For a period of time I believed his opinion of me to be accurate. Yet underneath my feeling of rejection was the understanding that if I let someone label me inferior, and even worse, give up my dream, I'd spend the rest of my life in mourning and paralysis. And that realization compelled me to ask another professor for assistance, to risk yet another judgment and rejection. That second professor agreed to help me. Why, I don't know. The only thing that was different about me was that I was more committed than ever to fulfill my dream of becoming a lawyer.

My second example occurred while I was applying for law school. I always wanted to attend University of California, Los Angeles. When UCLA Law School rejected me; I was devastated. Just think, if they had admitted me, instead of giving this commencement speech here in beautiful San Francisco, I would be sitting on the 405 freeway in the smog, wearing white weeks before Memorial Day, on my way to the dermatologist to have my sun spots removed.

But, despite my less than stellar LSAT score, and my unimpressive GPA, and the flat-out denial by the University of California, I applied to many law schools. If I had kept all of the rejection letters, I could build a tree. I remember many a day waiting for the mail, only to open yet another rejection letter. They came in droves. I was crushed by the constant refusals and felt inadequate to study law. But I did not let these feelings of rejection defeat me. I was determined to have my dream. I continued to apply.

It is ironic that the determination and conviction so necessary for my success was the product of my failure. I was accepted by the University of San Francisco. I graduated from law school smack dab in the middle of my class. But the fear of failure was still with me.

Three years later, after graduating from law school, I failed the bar exam. I failed by the slim margin of eleven points, but I failed.

Again I was devastated. But for me the key was that I was crippled but not paralyzed. I got up and took that test again. I will tell you that I passed the bar on my second attempt and became a bona-fide attorney.

Now I'd like for you to think about my litany of failures. Two attempts at getting help getting into law school, rejections from many law schools, and two times to pass the California Bar exam. I stand before you as a black woman who is now a federal magistrate judge for the United States District Court. I tell you this because I truly hope that you will embrace your failures as necessary and natural parts of your journey. Your measure will not be whether you are knocked down, but whether you stay down.

At 25, I sat where you're sitting, and the path before me was as uncertain and as unknown as the one that lies before you now. I had no notion of the direction my life would take. I have no idea of your destination, but I find it much more interesting and important to ponder how your failings will transform you. Through my failures, I have learned humility, strength, and perseverance. I have gained an appreciation of my talents and weaknesses. My failings have taught me to have compassion and to try to find the humanity in everyone who comes before me.

Twenty-eight years ago, I was awakened when that professor judged me unworthy. He did not see me, just as many on your journey will not see you. I am not here to say that he was mistaken or that he did anything wrong. He gave me his honest assessment. He did not have to see me. My success was not his to give, but mine to seek, mine to make, mine to build. You must make yourself seen by your determination, by your effort, by your courage. Twenty-eight years later, I've proved his measure of me was not wrong, but lacking in depth. And the truth is, although there were people who did not see me along the way, there were many more who did.

Throughout my life, so many people have gone out of their way to help and encourage me as a woman, as a minority, as a judge, and now as a professor of law, and not in the least of those is Peter Keane.

Peter gave me my first job as a lawyer in the public defender's office, he trusted me to teach his infant children to swim, and he gave me one of the most fulfilling jobs I have ever had: adjunct professor at Golden Gate. He keeps hiring me. (I hope his next job is in Paris!)



Without Peter and so many others, I would not be here. And the only way I have to say thank you is to pass it on, to give to my students as I have been given to.


Teaching at Golden Gate Law School has been such a gift. I feel so fortunate to be able to do what I love doing—presenting sometimes difficult and complex material in challenging and stimulating new ways. I get to share my experiences as a lawyer, a judge, and a human being with students who are eager to learn. I get to watch a student's face change as a concept becomes clear, when only last week it seemed impossible to grasp.

Teaching at Golden Gate has made me a better person and definitely a better judge. To my students I say thank you—for the joy of letting me speak to you today and to be able to contribute in some small way to your education, as you have contributed to mine.

So, why am I wearing this fabulous purple robe? Because on my law school graduation day, 25 years ago, I would never have dreamed that I would be invited to speak here today. For you looking forward, you may be as blind as I was then. But I want you to know that for me looking back, the road is well marked by milestones, wrecks, opportunities, and disappointments—and, yes, failures. All the stuff that makes life worth living.

I stand before you as a person who has failed many times in her life and I'm waiting for my next failing—or challenge. I wear this robe today to celebrate your promise now, and mine then, to celebrate this magic time of hope. I wear this purple robe to tell you to look forward with hope, determination, and courage, and in time, you will look back with pride and accomplishment.

And you will have earned it. Thank you.

Judge Maria-Elena James teaches Evidence as an adjunct professor at Golden Gate University School of Law. 

"Bright Girl: Law Student Loves Law"

by Roland Thompson

Catherine Sherburne-Thompson graduated from Golden Gate College's School of Law in 1956 and became the Law School's first female faculty member. Her son, Roland Thompson, remembers his mother and her approach to the study and practice of law.

In June 1956, the *San Francisco News* ran a short article titled, "Bright Girl: Law Student Loves Law." It asserted that smart women intimidated potential suitors and that, although busy with work and preparations for the bar exam, this gal still enjoyed cooking. "The fact that [she] is slim, trim and red-headed," the writer continued, "may encourage men to overlook her record as top honors graduate in the current class at Golden Gate College's School of Law." Ironically, a woman wrote this rather demeaning item, but she did hit one point accurately: The trim redhead *did* love the law.

That "bright girl" was my mother, Catherine Sherburne. In the mid '50s she was the first woman to win the post of student body president and was one of a handful of women to graduate from Golden Gate College School of Law. Years later, she was asked to join the faculty, making her not only the first graduate to teach at the Law School, but the first woman. It seems extraordinary that a girl from Oregon, with few aspirations other than shaking off the dust of her rural roots to live in the big city, would accomplish such distinguished achievements. In fact, when she arrived in San Francisco a few years earlier, her only objective was finding a job.

Shortly after her arrival in San Francisco, Catherine Sherburne landed a position with a small but prestigious law firm. She was an outgoing and inquisitive secretary, and it was her employer who recognized her growing interest in the procedures of law. He introduced her to the dean of Golden Gate College, and their encouragement spurred the young woman to begin taking classes at night.

What began as a step toward a career became a consuming passion with the legal system.

Upon passing the bar exam, Catherine became an associate for the attorney who got her started. By the late '60s, they were partners. After his death, she retained the practice and continued building her career in estate planning and corporate law. In the early '80s, she was approached by General Motors Acceptance Corporation (GMAC) to join their legal department. Catherine refused. She had received offers of other positions in corporate law firms over the years, but she always felt she was a better servant to her clients in private practice. Impressed with her convictions, GMAC made an unprecedented move. They came to her as a client, making her one of the first attorneys to be hired as outside counsel by GMAC.

Over the years, it was the lessons learned at Golden Gate College that helped determine the choices Catherine made. Lessons, not just in the workings of the law but in the methods of practicing law. She saw herself as an instrument of the legal process. She took the title of counselor quite literally. Catherine perceived her role with clients as one of guardian and guide. Never consumed with billing hours, she was more governed by a desire to make the legal system accessible to everyone. For her, the law became less a career and more a reflection of who she was and wanted to be.

My mother talked about the law, she read about the law and, in fact, almost her entire professional life, she taught about



the law. She had the unflattering nickname of “Dragon Lady” while teaching at Golden Gate. At that time, most of the students in her class were men.

My mother’s tough, steadfast exterior was intended to be off putting, but it drew at least one man closer. Robert Thompson approached the dean about asking her out and was instructed to wait until after final exams. He did, and after a few months of dating, they were married.

My father, Robert H. Thompson, was also a graduate of Golden Gate University School of Law, but he choose not to pursue a career in law. Instead he started an insurance firm as an independent broker, and often my parents worked together to provide clients with complete estate plans. Many people focus on my mother as a pioneer for women, but my father broke some new ground himself, if in a quiet, less notable way. Unlike other men of his generation, my father wasn’t put off by women forging ahead. Robert never felt threatened by Catherine’s success—rather, he encouraged it. They supported and advised one another with no judgment or ridicule. For it wasn’t my parents’ intent to change the world, simply make the best of their own.

Catherine found teaching a more satisfying way to stay current on the ever-changing law. However, it also allowed her to help steer others to become the kind of attorney she was proud of being—an attorney a little more interested in serving the legal system and a little less in cashing in on it. Catherine taught night classes because that’s where she first became enthusiastic about the law. She felt students who were working and going to school were more committed to succeeding as lawyers. One year, on the



Catherine Sherburne was the only female member of the graduating class of 1956.

first night of class, she informed her students that all exams would be essay. One student raised a hand and asked if there would be any multiple-choice questions. Catherine assured the student that there was no multiple-choice in the law.

I’ve always found that statement to be one of the most revealing about how my mother felt about the law. It was the problem

solving that most engaged her and the facets of interpretation that inspired her. The accomplishments that filled her career didn’t come from a desire for recognition, but out of an extension of her own exploration and appreciation of legal procedure.

For Catherine, that appreciation started with her education at Golden Gate University. Her experience at the school not only introduced her to the practice of law but shaped the way she practiced it. Teaching at Golden Gate University provided her with the opportunity to share her convictions and influence with a generation of students. And her association with Golden Gate University resulted in her meeting the man with whom she shared her life. It’s little wonder that whenever she spoke of Golden Gate University, it was with a note of devotion.

Roland Thompson, the son of Catherine Sherburne-Thompson, lives in Los Angeles, where he buys and restores homes. He offers, “When I was growing up, my parents never pressured me to become an attorney. They constantly told me they’d be happy as long as I did something I loved and did it as well as possible. I’m fortunate not only to have had that encouragement, but to have found that kind of satisfaction in my work.” 📖

Contribute to the Catherine Sherburne-Thompson Endowed Scholarship Fund

Through the work of Robert H. Thompson, the Catherine Sherburne-Thompson Fund was established following her death in December 1989 after a long battle with cancer. The fund provides assistance to part-time women students in their third or fourth year.

To contribute, please contact:

Debra Holcomb, Annual Giving Director
Golden Gate University
536 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-2968
Phone: (415) 442-7829 Email: dholcomb@ggu.edu

Remembering Joseph R. Rensch (55)

By Christine Pagano



Joseph R. Rensch died in March 2003 after several years of declining health. He is survived by June, his wife of 57 years, their sons Steven and Jeffrey, and several grandchildren. Joe, one of the Law School's most successful and admired graduates, was a generous supporter of the Law School for 43 years. He retired in 1987 from Pacific Lighting

Corporation of Los Angeles, where he served in many capacities, including president and chairman of the board, during his long career. When Joe retired, his company and business associates established a Golden Gate University School of Law scholarship in his name to honor his retirement and his many contributions as a business leader. The scholarship is awarded to students who show interest in and ability to become leaders in business and industry.

The scholarship is a fitting memorial to a man with a lifelong career of hard work. He served in the Naval Air Corps as a pilot in World War II. He met June one day in 1945 while he was landing a plane at a California airfield. June, a WAVE (as Navy women were called), was an air-traffic controller who redirected him from his intended runway to another one as he was approaching the airfield. As they told the story, Joe bounded up the tower stairs demanding to know who that woman was who told him where to land his plane. In 1946, Joe and June married. Their life together was a partnership with June at Joe's side. In 1947, he completed his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at Stanford, courtesy of the GI bill, and began his career in the gas and electric industry.

While at Stanford, he was encouraged to enter law because of his evident aptitude for it; his father had been a lawyer. But with a young family, Joe, like so many other successful Golden Gate alumni, attended law school at night and graduated in 1955. He and June moved to the Los Angeles area in 1957. Though he never practiced law, he attributed a great deal of his success to the lessons he learned at Golden Gate.

Joe served his community in many ways. He was on the boards of directors of major corporations including McKesson and Lockheed. He served on the board of councilors of the USC Graduate School of Business Administration, as a trustee of Mills College and of Occidental College, and as chair of the California Economic Development Corporation. Among his many honors, he was a member of the One Hundred Club, which includes the top business leaders in the state.

Joe was a terrific worker; while at Stanford, he tutored his engineering classmates every night, and while at his job, he often brought home not one, but two briefcases of work at the end of the day. He had his passions, too. Both Joe and June played musical instruments, but their favorite pastime was golf. According to reports, Joe was an excellent player; he played with Arnold Palmer, and, though it may be apocryphal, the story goes that he beat Arnie once.

Joe was, in many ways, exactly the kind of student and graduate Golden Gate holds as its mission to serve—hard working, dedicated, and generous in giving back to his community. So long, Joe. May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

—Christine Pagano is co-director of the LL.M. in U.S. legal studies program

Joseph R. and June B. Rensch Endowed Scholarship Recipients 1991–2003

1991–92

Sarah Afshar
James Brown
Lisa Church
Tahir Naim

1993

Julie Brook
Kristine Burks
Pamela Kayfetz
Douglas Maclellan

1994–95

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Anthony Hill
Eric Strong

1995

Carl Admas-Duma
Brian Soriano
Jeffrey Speed
Leisha Woolwine

1996

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Karalyn Buchner
Rosemarie Celli
Julie Coldicott
Mary Gubatina
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Helen Smolinski
Jill Thorpe

1997

Nicolas Anthony
Paul Choe
Martin Lijek

1998

Paul Choe
Elizabeth Vanalek
Deborah Wright

1999

Deborah Wright

2000

Shari Cruse
Wendi Kleman

2001


Jonathan Bruce
Jason Johansson
Patrick Reis

2002

Julie Glosson
Matthew Oliveri
Stephanie Profitt
Robert Selna

2003

Michael DiSimone
Sean Donrad
Marnius Goossens
Ian Kelly-Thomas

If you were a Rensch Scholar and your name is not on this list, please contact Law School Alumni Director Kevi Brannelly at (415) 442-6602 or kbrannelly@ggu.edu. 

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY
School of Law

HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

J u l y 1 , 2 0 0 2 - J u n e 3 0 , 2 0 0 3



LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Honor Roll of Giving

Even in a year marked by challenges from the economy, the Golden Gate University School of Law community continues to generously provide financial support to the Law School. The School of Law received \$780,840 in cash gifts during the 2002–03 fiscal year, a 64% increase over the previous year. The number of people giving continues to rise. We have seen a 23% increase in the number of donors this year over last year. Seventy percent of those making gifts to the Law School are alumni.

The number of alumni making gifts to the School of Law increased 16% last year. Since the phone-a-thon program began two years ago, we've seen a 250% increase in the number of alumni making their first gifts to the Law School. Additionally, we've seen a steady increase in the number of alumni who choose to repeat their gift annually. Along with their financial support, our alumni are giving us their votes of confidence that they believe in the education the Law School provides.

Not only are more alumni giving to the Law School, more alumni are giving more. While the median gift from Law School alumni remained at \$100, the average alumni gift amount increased from \$396 last year to \$531 this year. Gifts from alumni totaled \$199,750, a 55% increase over the previous year.

In addition to a broad base of financial supporters, we are fortunate to have a strong and dedicated Law School Dean's Advisory Board that has helped the school engage in more leadership giving. These alumni and friends not only financially support the school, but also serve as advisers to help the Law School focus on what needs to be done to maintain and enhance its reputation. The financial generosity of the advisory board members allows the Law School to meet the needs of students and faculty that are not always covered by tuition income alone. Scholarships, lectureships, endowment gifts, and much more are available because of the advisory board's loyalty and ongoing financial support. You'll see the names of these dedicated individuals in bold print on the following pages.

This report lists all of the donors who made this success possible during the Law School's 2003 fiscal year, from July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003. The students and faculty of Golden Gate University School of Law are most grateful to you.

Sincerely,



Peter G. Keane
Dean

Centennial Society

The Centennial Society recognizes those individuals who gave to the university during the past year and whose lifetime support of GGU exceeds \$100,000, ensuring the longevity and prosperity of Golden Gate University.

Lee D. Baxter, 74

Fred Drexler, 47, 71

Leo B. Helzel, 51

The Millennium Society

Established in 1999 to commemorate the year 2000, the Millennium Society has become the premier support group of unrestricted funds for Golden Gate University. The generous support of its 74 members (26 of whom are either law alumni or directed their gifts to the Law School), with an unrestricted annual gift of \$2,000 or more, allowed Dean Peter Keane to move quickly in meeting a variety of pressing needs including awarding scholarships to outstanding students, recruiting exemplary professors and professional practitioners for our teaching faculty, and maintaining a competitive edge in technology improvements. We are grateful to the members below.

Kevin Allen, 97

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Richard M. Rosenberg, 66, 88

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Richard I. Sherman (74) & Vicki DeGoff

Sompong & Thaithow Sucharitkul

Christopher A. Teras, 74

Nancy (92) & Herbert Tully

The Bridge Society

A carefully planned estate can help avoid or reduce taxes, increasing the amount an individual can leave to heirs and favorite charities. While outright gifts address immediate needs, deferred gifts fulfill a vital role in securing the Law School's future. Membership in The Bridge Society is available to all those who notify us of their provision for the Law School through planned gifts such as bequests, charitable trusts, and gifts of life insurance and property. We are pleased to recognize the following members of The Bridge Society who have made commitments to the Law School in their estate plans.

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Jerome A. Adams, 96

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John M. Burke

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Karen L. Hawkins, 79

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Leo B. Helzel, 51

Pamela Jordan

Mary E. Lanigar, 54

John H. McCarthy, 51

Kathryn E. Ringgold, 70

KEY

Bold: Members of the
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Special Gift Clubs

Private gifts enhance virtually every aspect of the Law School: curriculum enrichment, student financial aid, technology and equipment, the law library, faculty research, and a variety of special programs. Individual membership in the following gift clubs is based on pledge payments, current gifts of cash and securities, and employee matching gifts. The Law School extends its heartfelt thanks to each of the following individuals whose financial support has had a measurable impact on the people and programs of Golden Gate University School of Law.

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1951

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Denise K. Mills
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Timothy H. Smallsreed

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Holli I. Ploog

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Christopher M. Mazzia
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We strive to ensure the accuracy in this report of donors who made cash gifts to the School of Law between July 1, 2002, and June 30, 2003. Please accept our apologies for any inaccuracies or omissions. If there is an error in the way we listed your gift or your name, please notify Debra Holcomb, director of annual giving, at the address below.

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Volunteers

Law School alumni have been extraordinarily generous in giving their valuable time to a variety of Law School activities including student recruitment, mock interviews, legal career options day, moot court judging, special advisory boards and governance, appellate advocacy, and more.

We express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the more than 200 alumni listed below, whose thousands of hours of volunteered time have greatly enriched the Law School's programs and services. Our volunteers have contributed in numerous ways including serving as speakers at special events and in classes; serving on governance and advisory boards; supervising students in field placements and judicial externships; assisting with mock interview, brown bag lunches, and other panels with Law Career Services; sitting behind the bench and coaching our students in mock trial, appellate advocacy, and moot court; meeting with new students during orientation and admissions events; and many other ways. The Law School faculty, staff, and students thank you.

If you served as an alumni volunteer and your name is not included or listed correctly, contact Law Alumni Relations Director Kevi Brannelly at (415) 442-6602 or lawalumni@ggu.edu.

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In memoriam

Elliott Wax (52)

Joseph R. Rensch (55) (see page 12)

Michael R. Hallinan (70)

David Copenhaver (73)

Daniel Villanueva Hernandez (80)

1950s **Elliott Wax (52)** devoted his career to the labor movement, organizing unions in Southern California during the 1930s, serving as a California state labor commissioner, and working almost 30 years as a labor lawyer. Mr. Wax helped establish a public defender's office in San Jose in the '50s. After he retired in 1989, he continued to do pro bono legal work and won a suit on behalf of taxi drivers in the Santa Cruz area.

1960s **Rick Bradley (66)** is still practicing law full time at 70, defending medical professionals in alleged malpractice claims. Email: rickwbrad@msn.com.

Harry J. McCarthy (69) was appointed to the King County (Wash.) Superior Court in September 2002 by Governor Gary Locke; he is currently assigned to the Regional Justice Center in Kent, Wash. Email: mccarassoc@cablespeed.com or harry-mccarthy@metrokc.gov.

1970s **Michael Hallinan (70)** died after a long battle with lung cancer. He was known as "a warm, loving human being" who took a special interest in juvenile cases, both as a private defense attorney and a public prosecutor.

He spent his entire career in San Francisco, working for many years as a criminal defense attorney specializing in juvenile defense. In 1997, he switched to the other side of the courtroom and took a job under his cousin, District Attorney Hallinan. In the DA's office, he was assigned to prosecute defendants accused of having unlawful sex with minors. Michael loved to travel, have lunch with friends, cook, and garden. Michael Hallinan had five children and nine grandchildren.

David Lawson (71) has practiced for 30 years in California, Washington, and Switzerland, all of which he describes as "good memories." In summer 2003, he taught a law course at the University of Geneva. Email: dl@ilf.ch.

David Copenhaver (73) passed away at the age of 63. He was the head of the Sonoma County district attorney's consumer fraud division and a tireless advocate for the elderly. He served their community on the job and, in his spare time, often acted as a pro-bono legal adviser for elderly clients. As a medic in the Navy Reserves, he served on a destroyer during the mid-1960s, caring for the wounded from Vietnam. When Copenhaver returned to

California, he bought a restaurant and trained as an opera singer. He cut a record and sang at weddings and other events. At one wedding, he encountered the woman who would become his wife. David and Sherlie Copenhaver were married in Nicaragua in 1970. That year, he also enrolled at the Golden Gate University School of Law. He briefly worked under the district attorneys in San Francisco and Lake Counties, and then began a 25-year career in the Sonoma County District Attorney's Office.

Diana Richmond (73) was designated by The *San Francisco Chronicle Magazine* in May as one of the Bay Area's top attorneys for her compassionate and effective representation in handling divorces. She has been practicing for more than 25 years and handles matters from simple divorce to splitting up assets and arranging child custody. She is also an accomplished mediator. She remained in solo practice until 2001, then joined the S.F. firm of Sideman & Bancroft.

Hon. Alfonso Fernandez (75) was moved to the mental health calendar last winter and will continue in 2003.

Hon. Everett Hewlett Jr. (75) was noted in a November 2002 article as being a judge tough on discovery abuses who has a sixth sense about procedural game playing. Judge Hewlett has spent 16 years on the bench and is currently a senior discovery commissioner at the San Francisco Superior Court.

Gerry Richards (76) is completing his first year as a member of the State Bar Standing Committee on Senior Lawyers and his sixth year as an emeritus attorney with the State Bar Pro Bono Program. In May 2003, he was appointed to the Antioch Board of Administrative Appeals. Gerald also wrote *Jimmy*, a coming-of-age novel set in postwar occupied Germany. Website: www.1stbooks.com/bookview/12980. You can email him at Hesiod@calbears.com.

Joyce Saltalamachia (76) has been appointed deputy director of the American Association of Law Schools.

Hon. Barbara A. Zuniga (76) was profiled in The *Daily Journal* for receiving high marks from both colleagues and litigants for her enforcement of political correctness in the courtroom. Judge Zuniga is known for her positive formality, which leads opponents to treat each other with respect. She has been a member of the Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness, worked on the first statewide conference on women of color in the justice system, and is chair of the country's first national conference scheduled for 2005. She is a former chair and board member of the National Association of Women Judges and now serves as the group's delegate to the American Bar Association.

Jessie Serna (77) lost her husband, Daniel Villanueva Hernandez, on June 6, 2003. Jessie is a local personal injury and medical malpractice attorney who persuaded her husband to

become a lawyer. He was an impassioned criminal defense attorney and Mexican-American rights activist.

Marc Van Der Hout (77) was designated by The *San Francisco Chronicle Magazine* in May as one of the Bay Area's top attorneys for his work in immigration. He has been an immigration lawyer for more than 25 years, much of it battling U.S. immigration officials on behalf of lawful and undocumented immigrants. His recent work consists of deportation cases and civil-rights issues stemming from the required registration of Middle Eastern immigrants. He was the 2003 S.F. National Lawyers Guide honoree for his tireless advocacy of immigrants and his pro bono work.

Rosario Bacon-Billingsley (78) recently purchased her own office building at 2929 Summit Street in Oakland, and celebrated her grand opening in August. Rosario is a member of the Charles Houston Bar Association, a published author, and a frequent lecturer. She is also a certified specialist in family law. Because of her expertise and prominence in her chosen field, she was featured in a State Bar advertisement published in numerous legal newspapers to promote the State Bar certified specialist program.

Pamela Jester (78) has been appointed director of Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB), a leading provider of legal education programs and publications. Pamela has worked actively to promote opportunities for women attorneys in the state. She is a past president of California Women Lawyers and past co-chair of the State Bar of California Women in the Law Committee. She serves on the board of directors of the

Pamela Jester (78)

Pamela Jester (JD/MBA 78) has been appointed director of Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB), following a nationwide search. Jester has been active in promoting opportunities for women attorneys in the state. She is a past president of California Women Lawyers and past co-chair of the State Bar of California Women in the Law Committee. She serves on the board of directors of the Alameda County Bar Association and as a pro tem mental health hearing officer for Alameda Superior Court. As CEB's interim director since 2002 and its co-director since 1997, Jester has played a major role in overseeing program and product development.

Palmer Brown Madden, past president of the State Bar of California, served on the selection committee that nominated Jester for her new position. "Pam embodies everything the law profession could wish for in a CEB director," Madden said. "She has a great deal of editorial experience with CEB, which gives her the necessary technical skills; plus, she has a demonstrated commitment to public service, as shown in the time she has spent developing the profession and advancing opportunities for women in the law. Pam's got so much experience both with the profession and with CEB, that she's going to be a great leader."

"Pam brings a wonderful mix of problem-solving ability, sound judgment, collegiality, and leadership to the Alameda County Bar Association," added Richard P. Waxman, 2003 president of the ACBA and a partner at Wendel, Rosen, Black & Dean. "I am sure she brings those same talents to CEB."

CEB, a statewide continuing legal education provider and publisher since 1947, is part of the University of California and is cosponsored by the State Bar of California. For more information, go to www.ceb.com.



Alameda County Bar Association and as a pro tem mental health hearing officer for Alameda Superior Court. Pamela is the first woman to lead the CEB since its organization.

Jan M. Lecklikner (78) was selected in 2002 for the annual Ruth Young Award by Women Defenders, an organization of women criminal defense attorneys. This year, she was voted by her colleagues at the public defender's office The Best Female Public Defender in 2002.

Liz Hendrickson (79) was appointed an Alameda County Superior Court commissioner on October 1.

Thellen Levy (79) was recognized by the Volunteer Legal Services Program for outstanding work and generous donation of time in public service. While more than 2,000 others gave of their time, this alum's extraordinary contribu-

tions placed him in the top ten percent of VLSP volunteers.

Steven Adair Macdonald (79) was recognized by the Volunteer Legal Services Program for outstanding work and generous donation of time in the public service. While more than 2,000 others gave of their time, this alum's extraordinary contributions placed him in the top ten percent of VLSP volunteers.

Karen Hawkins (79) was awarded the V. Judson Klein award by the Taxation Section of the State Bar of California. Karen is being honored for her enthusiasm, excellence, and enjoyment of work in her tax practice. She now practices at the firm of Taggart & Hawkins. She concentrates her practice in civil and criminal tax defense, but she also does tax transactional work. Karen still donates a significant amount of time to pro bono clients.

1980s

Daniel Villanueva Hernandez (80) died of a heart attack on June 6, 2003. Daniel was an impassioned criminal defense attorney and Mexican-American rights activist. During his undergraduate years at San Jose State University, he became a student leader whose efforts contributed to the installation of a medical clinic on McKee Road and 193 affordable housing units. He used his student leadership role to work for scholarships and student loans for Chicano students. To improve the number of Mexican-American students in college, he started the Mexican-American Student Confederation and brought in 200 students in one year. He worked for Cesar Chavez as a student in the '60s,

(continued on next page)

taught with Dennis Banks of the American Indian Movement, and campaigned for the current system of district elections for San Jose City Council members. He became a well-respected criminal defense attorney known for his tireless and compassionate defense of each client. He is survived by his wife, Jessie Serna, who is also a Law School alumna (77), two sons, two sisters, and four brothers.

Gail Dekreon (81) won the runoff election to a judgeship on the San Francisco Superior Court. For the previous ten years, she focused on criminal defense work, especially traffic tickets and DUI charges. She has conducted seminars and written articles on subjects including DUI defense, radar speed traps, and particular Vehicle Code provisions.

Jeffrey Hansen (82) won a seat on the Dublin San Ramon Services District Board in the fall election.

Leigh Duff (83) retired from the Commercial Bank of New York and works for a small law firm in Coral Gables, Fla. She is married to Bill Duff who graduated from Golden Gate University with an MBA in 1982.

Cecily A. Dumas (83) jointly formed the law firm of Friedman Dumas & Springwater LLP in San Francisco, specializing in bankruptcy, creditors' rights and remedies, and secured transactions. Email: cdumas@frieddumspring.com.

Robert Kroll (83) was recognized by the Volunteer Legal Services Program for outstanding work and generous donation of time in the public service. While more than 2,000 others gave of their time,

this alum's extraordinary contributions placed him in the top ten percent of VLSP volunteers.

Robert Douglas (84) was recognized by the Volunteer Legal Services Program for outstanding work and generous donation of time in the public service. While more than 2,000 others gave of their time, this alum's extraordinary contributions placed him in the top ten percent of VLSP volunteers.

David Youngsmith (84) was recognized by the Volunteer Legal Services Program for outstanding work and generous donation of time in the public service. While more than 2,000 others gave of their time, this alum's extraordinary contributions placed him in the top ten percent of VLSP volunteers.

Greg Hodge (85) is currently president of the Oakland School Board. Since the year 2000, he has been chief executive officer for California Tomorrow, a policy group advocating greater appreciation of racial, cultural, and linguistic diversity in programs for children and youth. His name has been mentioned as a possible contender for the next Oakland mayor's race.

Hon. Mary Ann (Wetle) O'Malley (85), a judge in the California Superior court in Contra Costa County, honored GGU by presiding over the Swearing-In Ceremony for our February 2003 bar passers. The graduates were especially appreciative of having "one of their own" personalize the ceremony.

Randy Riddle (85) left the San Francisco City Attorney's office, where, for 15 years, he was the chief of the city attorney's government litigation team, to be the General Counsel for California's new secretary of state, Kevin

Shelley. Riddle formerly worked for the Republic of Palau as one of two legal counsel in its National Senate, from 1995 to 1998.

Todd Bofferding (87) has spent his career practicing criminal defense. For the last four years, he has been a solo practitioner in Hood River, Oregon, defending those accused of federal felonies and state-capital and non-capital murder charges. Todd also served for two years as a pro tem judge for the city of Sherwood, Oregon. When not practicing law, he snow skis in the winter, plays semi-professional baseball in the spring and summer, and raises two children (Alyce age 14 and Ty age 8) with his wife Agi.

Robert L. Harris Jr. (87) maintains a solo practice specializing in disability, family, and criminal law, primarily representing the indigent population of Washington, DC. Email: abogado8@hotmail.com.

Correction

Hon. Laurel (Lindenbaum) Brady (88) was incorrectly mentioned in the *ClassAction* spring 2003 edition for being promoted to the Superior Court of Contra Costa County. Instead, she was elevated to the Superior Court in 1998 as a result of court unification. Judge Brady was then elected presiding judge of the Superior Court in January 2003 for a term of two years.

Hon. Ron Del Pozzo (89) heads the career criminal unit of the district attorney's office and was elected judge in Santa Clara, CA, office number 16.

Richard Hobbs (89), a longtime San Jose/Evergreen Community College District governing board member, regained his seat in the fall election.

Pastor Pam Kurtz (89) practiced criminal defense, juvenile law, and family law upon graduating from GGU. Pam later became a United Methodist and felt called to become an elder and pastor in the church. This calling sent her to Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, where she received her masters of divinity in 1998. She continued her law practice while attending seminary, eventually giving seminary her full commitment. She served as pastor of First United Methodist Churches in Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, and in Linden, a small farming community east of Stockton. She recently joined the leadership of Twin Towers United Methodist Church. The August 1 *Contra Costa Times* states, "As Twin Towers United Methodist Church celebrates its 150th anniversary September 21st, it will be led by a dedicated and dynamic woman."

1990s

Mary P. O'Donnell (90) is the first female rear admiral in the U.S. Coast Guard. Email: mo'donnell@d11.uscg.mil.

Eben Gossage (92) has been accepted to a specialized degree program at the University of Lyden, Amsterdam. If you wish to reach him for details of this prestigious program, call him at (415) 322-3100 (leave a message with the best time to call you) or in Amsterdam at 011-33-0630-996315.

Mark W. Gunning (92) is the the staff attorney for the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe. Email: mgunning@ypit.com.

Stephanie Bradshaw (93) has been made a partner in Gordon & Rees. Stephanie works in the firm's employment law practice group in San Francisco. She represents management and employers in state and federal courts.

Kathryn Fugere (93) joined Steefel Levitt & Weiss as an attorney in March. Email: kfugere@gmsr.com.

Charlotte Ito (LL.M., 93) has joined Carr, McClellan, Ingersoll, Thompson & Horn as a partner. Charlotte has more than 20 years' experience in estate and tax planning and was formerly a partner at Howard, Rice, Nemerovski, Canady, Falk & Rabkin.

Alan Korn (93) was the featured speaker at the Los Gatos Art Association meeting. He has successfully represented significant cases regarding trademarks and copyright issues. He also sits on the steering committee of the National Lawyers Guild's committee on democratic communications.

Michele Shuster (93) has been promoted to senior deputy attorney general of the Consumer Protection Section of the Ohio Attorney General's office. Email: mshuster@ag.state.oh.us.

Robyn Sofnas Zieper (93) has been named associate general counsel of Encore Credit Corp. in Irvine, CA.

Alan Bloom (94) accepted a commission in the U.S. Army Reserve JAG Corps. Email: alblohme@yahoo.com.

Marty Courson (95) was recognized by the Volunteer Legal Services Program for outstanding work and generous donation of time in the public service. While more than 2,000 others gave of their time, Marty's extraordinary contributions placed him in the top ten percent of VLSP volunteers.

Huaping Liu (LL.M., 95) earned a Ph.D. in economics from the Southwestern University of

Finance and Economics, Chengdu, China, in June. Email: lhp369@peoplemail.com.cn.

Denise Riley (LL.M., 95) is at Orrick Herrington et al. as an estate planner. She is married to Charles O. Thompson (88).

Scott Bloom (96) opened The Law Offices of Scott Bloom, which specializes in professional liability, insurance defense, and commercial litigation. Bloom spent four years as an associate at Hancock Rothert & Bunshoft, specializing in insurance coverage and litigation of professional liability claims. Previously, he was an associate at the San Francisco office of Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker. Scott was also a founding member of the law committee of the University Alumni Board and is still active in alumni events including meeting with admitted students.

Dierk A. Herbermann (96) has joined Frank Howard Allen as a real estate broker in Marin County. You can reach Dierk at (415) 309-5454 or email: dherbermann@fhallen.com.

Caren Jenkins (96) opened her own law practice. She and her partner Farrell are expecting their first child and are making plans to purchase a ranch in Washoe Valley, NV. She taught Remedies at GGU last summer and is teaching two sections of Legal Writing and Research this fall. On top of all this, the Nevada Legislature appointed her to serve on the statewide Ethics Commission. Reach her by email: carenjenkins@hotmail.com.

Junji Suzuki (96) was recognized by the Volunteer Legal Services Program for outstanding work and generous donation of time in the public service. While more than 2,000 others gave of their time,

this alum's extraordinary contributions placed her in the top ten percent of VLSP volunteers.

Michael Ward (96) was made a partner with Morrison & Foerster in their San Francisco intellectual property department.

Kevin Allen (97), a former S.F. deputy public defender and GGU alumni association president, is now director of the city's police watchdog agency, the Office of Citizen Complaints. Email: wilddawg13@yahoo.com.

Daniel Alweiss (97) joined Carroll, Burdick & McDonough as an associate in the firm's products liability practice group. Previously, he worked at Oakland's Burnham Brown. He focuses primarily on product liability and has experience defending clients in complex litigation matters involving toxic torts.

April Fisher (98) recently joined Gordon & Rees as an associate.

Judith Whitehouse (98) has joined Bullivant Houser Baley. Her practice involves insurance coverage, extra-contractual, and bad-faith litigation.

Carol Wu (98), in January 2002, was appointed to the panel of Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Trustees for the San Jose division. She reports that she has been extremely busy given the nature of the current economy.

Joseph Como (99) was recognized by the Volunteer Legal Services Program for outstanding work and generous donation of time in the public service. While more than 2,000 others gave of their time, this alum's extraordinary contributions placed him in the top ten percent of VLSP volunteers.

Adrian Hern (J.D./M.B.A 1999) is an associate at Bennett, Samuels, Reynolds and Allard, an insurance defense firm in Oakland. She reports to title-partner and fellow GGU alum, Anthony J. Allard (76). Adrian says the firm "is just the place I have been looking for."

2005 Rema Titcomb Breall (00) is an assistant district attorney for the City and County of San Francisco.

Omer Collak (LL.M., 00) has been a business-immigration legal analyst for the past three years. Email: ocollak@hotmail.com.

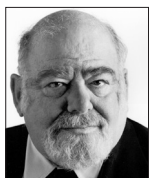
Yvonne J. Cowley (00) and John Srem welcomed a baby boy on Sept. 19, 2002. Email: blondeee64@hotmail.com.

Kate Langer (00) joined the professional liability and employment practice in Haight Brown & Bonesteel's San Francisco office.

Sonia Agee (LL.M., 01), a senior associate at Hoge, Fenton, Jones & Appel, was certified as a tax specialist by the California State Bar Board of Legal Specialization.

Catherine Cary (00; LL.M., 01) is the pro bono coordinator with Washoe Legal Services in Reno, NV. She also writes articles for the Washoe County Bar Association's *The Writ* and organizes continuing legal education programs for pro bono attorneys. Email: ccary@washoelegalservices.org.

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Roger Bernhardt

Professor Roger Bernhardt continues to serve as editor and contributor to *Real Property Reporter*. His article in the May 2003 issue dis-

cusses the likely impact of a recent Ninth Circuit decision on Deeds of Trust. He also wrote a provocative editorial in the July issue, blasting the California Committee of Bar Examiners for using real property questions that test obscure problems far from the main-stream of California real property practice.



Leslie Burton

Professor Leslie Burton contributed an "Editor's Take" on a joint tenancy/bankruptcy case, reported in 26 *Real Property Law Reporter* 196

(Sept. 2003).



Helen Chang

Professor Helen Chang's article, "My Father is a Woman: Oh No! The Failure of the Courts to Uphold Individual Substantive Due Process

Rights For Transgender Parents under the Guise of the Best Interests of the Child" was published in 43 *Santa Clara Law Review* 649-698 (2003).



Mort Cohen

Professor Mort Cohen was awarded the Honorable Robert Peckham Award for Outstanding Public Interest Litigation from the Law

Foundation of the Silicon Valley.



Helen Hartnell

In June, Professor Helen Hartnell took part in a panel on "Courts and Democratic Legitimacy" at the annual meeting of the Law and

Society Association in Pittsburgh, PA. She presented a paper titled "When European Judges Govern." Professor Hartnell's article, "EUstitia: Institutionalizing Justice in the European Union," was published in *The Northwestern Journal of International Law and Business*.



Helen Kang

The *San Francisco Chronicle* published an op-ed piece on Wednesday, September 10, 2003, by Professor Helen Kang, director of the Law

School's Clean Air Accountability Project. The piece was titled, "Federal Impact on State Resources: Fighting the Feds for Clean Air." The piece was also on the Internet at www.Tompaine.com.



Neil Levy

Professor Neil Levy recently published *The Last Rebbe of Bialystok: Legends and Sayings*, a book of biblical commen-

tary seen through the eyes of a legendary rabbi. The third edition of his *Micronesia Handbook* was also published recently. He continues to edit the six-volume treatise *California Torts*, published by Lexis Nexis. He is also working with Gary Greene, a marine geologist at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, to form an organization to help preserve ocean atolls.



Myron Moskowitz

Lexis/Anderson is about to publish the fifth edition of Professor Myron Moskowitz's book *Cases and Problems in Criminal Law*. His article,

"Advising the pro se Defendant: The Trial Court's Duties under Faretta," will be published by *The Louisville Law Review*. In its September 2003 issue, *California Lawyer* published Professor Moskowitz's article, "Trial Court Tips—From an Appellate Lawyer."



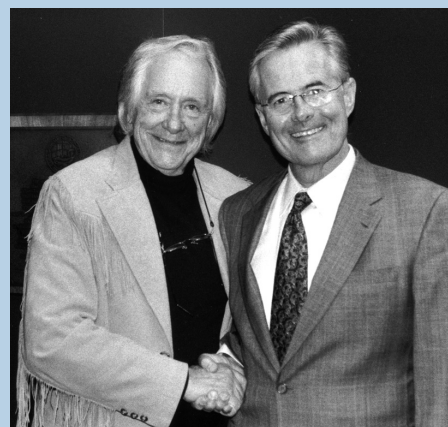
Doris Ng

Congratulations are due to Doris Ng for her article in *The Recorder* titled, "The Future of Title VII." The article discusses whether

California's Fair Employment and Housing Act should follow federal Title VII law in two important sex discrimination cases before the California Supreme Court.

Peter Keane

On September 26, Dean Peter Keane moderated a presentation by famed trial attorney Gerry Spence. Mr. Spence, author of *The Smoking Gun* and *How to Argue and Win Every Time*, spoke on "The Myth of Justice in America." Spence is renowned for his work on the Karen Silkwood case and his defense of Imelda Marcos. He spoke at the Commonwealth Club of California.





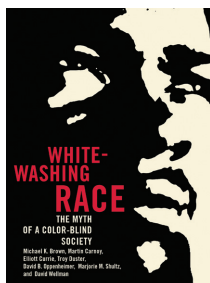
David Oppenheimer

Associate Dean David B. Oppenheimer's newest law review article, "McDonnell Douglas Corp. v. Green Revisited: Why Non-Violent

Civil Disobedience Should Be Protected from Retaliation by Title VII," was published in 34 *Columbia Human Rights Law Review* 635 (2003). The article is part of a symposium issue on "Combating Subtle Discrimination in the Workplace." This past fall, Yale University Press published *Directions in Sexual Harassment Law*, edited by Catharine A. MacKinnon and Riva B. Siegel. Dean Oppenheimer wrote Chapter 17, "Employer Liability for Sexual Harassment by Supervisors."

In addition, Associate Dean Oppenheimer is one of seven scholars to co-author a new book on the persistence of racial inequality.

Whitewashing Race: The Myth of a Color-Blind Society (University of California Press) was written by Michael K.



Brown (a sociologist from UC Santa Cruz); Martin Carnoy (an economist from Stanford University); Elliot Currie (a criminologist from UC Berkeley); Troy Duster (a sociologist from UC Berkeley and NYU); David Oppenheimer; Marjorie M. Shultz (a law professor from Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley); and David Wellman (a sociologist from UC Santa Cruz). Critical acclaim for the book includes: "Whitewashing Race is the most important social science statement on race in more than a decade" (UCLA Professor Lawrence Bobo); "No one concerned with racial justice in America can afford to ignore this book" (Stanford Professor George M. Fredrickson); "... a cogent argument about racial stratification" (Harvard Law Professor Lani Guinier).



Cliff Rechtschaffen

Professor Cliff Rechtschaffen recently published the following: "Improving State Environmental Enforcement Performance Through

Enhanced Government Accountability and Other Strategies" (with Dave Markell), 33 *Envtl L. Rep.* 10557 (2003); "Environment

Professor Markita Cooper Honored by the Legal Aid Society

On June 11, 2003, **Professor Markita Cooper**

was one of seven law professors given the 2003 Mathew O. Tobriner Award by the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center. According to this organization, the people chosen for the award, "have made significant contributions to the advancement of inclusion, integration, and equality as core precepts of our society. In their own right, they have also served as bearers of diversity,



illuminating the worth and value of difference through scholarship, mentorship, and leadership." In the photograph above, the Hon. Thelton Henderson poses with Professor Cooper after presenting her with the award.

In addition to teaching law at GGU, Professor Cooper's community service includes chairing the building committee and serving on the administrative board of the Jones Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco, a non-profit organization that serves the educational, health, economic, and spiritual needs of the community.

Professor Cooper's other activities include being 2003-04 chair of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on Teaching Methods. She was also appointed to the executive committee of the AALS Section on Defamation and Privacy.

Factors into Proposition 54: Who We Are, Where We Live Affects Health of Most Minorities in State," *Los Angeles Daily News*, September 10, 2003; "On Environment, Bush Ignores Federalism," *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 18, 2003; "Appearing on the Next California Ballot: An Initiative to Ban Information," an Urban Habitat Policy Paper, July 2003, published at www.urbanhabitat.org/policy_papers.htm#an%20initiative; "Using California's Anti-Discrimination Law to Remedy Environmental Injustice," *Environmental Justice Committee newsletter*, ABA Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities (Fall 2003). Professor Rechtschaffen also debated Manuel Klausner about California's Proposition 54 on KPFK radio, August 4, 2003.

Adjunct Professors

Adjunct Professor and former San Francisco Superior Court Judge **David Garcia** has stepped down from the bench and joined alternative dispute resolution provider JAMS. Garcia will work as both an arbitrator and mediator.

Adjunct Professor **Edward Yates** published the article, "Central Planning Meets the Neighborhood: Land-Use Law and Environmental Impact Assessment in Cuba," in a special summer 2003 issue of *Tulane Environmental Law Journal*, vol. 16.

Meet our new faculty . . . See next 2 pages!

Meet the Faculty

Faculty Working Toward Tenure



Helen Chang (J.D., Southern Methodist University) has taught at Golden Gate University School of Law for more than 12 years. In addition to teaching, she has acted as the interim dean of law student services and the interim director of the LL.M. in taxation program. She has practiced law and tutored bar students in the San Francisco Bay Area for more than 12 years. She authored the 2000 edition of *California Courts and Judges*. In 2003, *Santa Clara Law Review* published her article, "My Father is a Woman: Oh No! The Failure of the Courts to Uphold Individual Substantive Due Process Rights for Transgender Parents under the Guise of the Best Interests of the Child." She teaches Advanced Torts, Community Property, Criminal Law, International Criminal Law, and Property.



Cheryl R. Lee (J.D., Duquesne University) was a corporate lawyer for a regional savings and loan in southern California for seven years, concentrating mostly in the areas of mergers and acquisitions and debt offerings and borrowings. In 1991, she moved into teaching. She taught business law subjects at several community colleges, as well as corporate law at both Thomas Cooley Law School and Widener University School of Law. She believes her strength lies in inspiring students in a diverse and student friendly atmosphere. She teaches Banking and Financial Institutions, Contracts, and Corporations.

Visiting Professors for 2003–04



Ruth B. Philips (J.D., cum laude, Harvard University Law School) has taught at University of Connecticut School of Law and Thomas Jefferson School of Law. At Thomas Jefferson, she was voted the 2001–02 Professor of the Year. Ruth, a former concert pianist, worked as a public defender in New York City and attended the 1998 Rome Diplomatic Treat Conference for an International Criminal Court with a caucus of women's rights advocates. Her research interests include the intersection of feminist theory, criminal law, and international law; and the comparative historical and interpretive relationships between law and music. She teaches Civil Procedure, Evidence, and Property.



Chuck Marson (J.D., University of Chicago) began his legal career at the Cooley Godward firm in 1967. He became a lobbyist and litigator for the ACLU of Northern California in 1968, rising to legal director in 1972. He taught at Stanford Law School from 1977 to 1984, then joined the prominent election law firm Remcho, Johansen & Purcell of San Francisco. In 1995 he went solo to represent Internet clients. More recently, he has concentrated on writing both fiction and nonfiction. His academic specialty is privacy law. He currently teaches Civil Procedure and Constitutional Law.

Dragon Slayer, cum laude

An Interview with Associate Dean Kimberly Stanley by Joseph Chianese

Kim Stanley recently joined the law faculty as associate dean and director of the LL.M. in taxation program. She received her law degree (with honors) from George Washington University and an LL.M. in tax from Georgetown. Her legal experience includes work with the U.S. Tax Court, the Justice Department Tax Division, Gray Cary, and private practice.

With all that experience, why do you teach?

I began as a teacher. I attended Brigham Young University and taught high school history for four years in Salt Lake City. After years of practice, I have a lot of experiences to share. So I was delighted to accept the offer to become the associate dean and director of the LL.M. in tax program. It may seem counter-intuitive, but tax law is really quite fun to teach.

What first sparked your interest in the law?

I really just jumped from being a high school teacher to being a law student. I wasn't sure I would like practicing law, but I thought law school would prepare me for a significant career in business or something else if I did not take to the law.

What drew you to tax law?

I really don't "do" math very well, so I was very skeptical about my ability to be a tax lawyer. I was hired as a law clerk for a judge at the U.S. Tax Court in Washington DC. I learned from my work there that taxation really has more to do with concepts than numbers. Once I made it over that hurdle, I realized that tax law touches every aspect of life. We all pay taxes—and we mostly all gripe about it.

What in your career has been most rewarding?

When I was with the Tax Court, I loved working on cutting-edge issues. Tax law changes frequently, and the court often decides questions of first impression requiring in-depth analysis of legislative history, tax policy, and statutory interpretation. I also felt a great sense of pride serving as a DOJ attorney whenever I introduced myself to the court of appeals saying, "I represent the United States of America."

I gained a new appreciation for my profession, though, when I began to represent private individuals and companies under "assault" by the IRS. People tend to feel powerless against such a monumental government agency, and I enjoyed being able to reassure people that we could win our case. I wasn't the kind of lawyer that every client needed, but when they needed me, they really needed me. I liked being a dragon-slayer.

As you said, the tax code changes often. How do you stay on top of it?

Study, study, study. It helps that after nearly 20 years of reading the Internal Revenue Code, it no longer intimidates me.

Was it a difficult decision to leave your home and practice to relocate to the Bay Area?

It was a difficult choice to leave San Diego, but I have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the Bay Area. I love being in an urban environment again and look forward to making this my permanent home.

What's good about the GGU LL.M. in tax program and where is it going?

We offer the only LL.M. in taxation program north of Los Angeles and the oldest such program in the state. We have a great reputation, superlative adjunct professors, and a wide array of course offerings. We cater to all types of students—those just out of a J.D. program, practicing tax lawyers looking for that extra edge, as well as those looking for a mid-career change. I look forward to growing the program, offering more specialized courses, and elevating the profile of our graduates.



Should basic tax law be required in law schools?

I think every lawyer should at least become acquainted with tax law basics and learn how taxes have an impact on nearly every law practice specialty. I would certainly recommend that every J.D. student take a tax course if only to learn how to understand and apply code-based laws and legal principles to everyday situations.

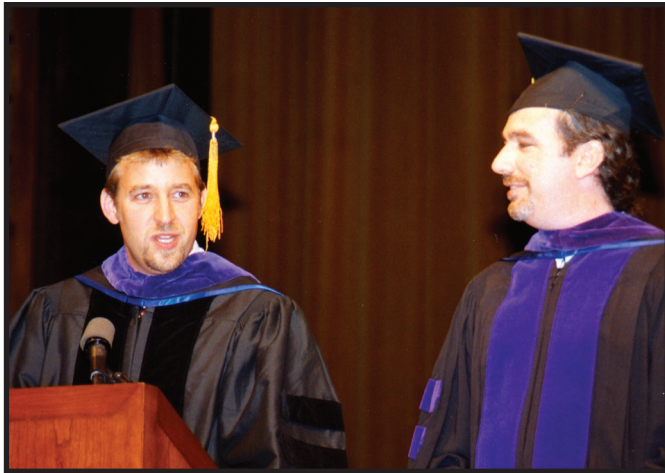
What would you say to law students who haven't chosen a practice area, or to practicing attorneys looking for a new challenge?

Today, lawyers need a specialty, and tax law is a great choice. Any lawyer looking for a career in business or government would benefit greatly from a graduate tax degree. The excellent reputation of Golden Gate's LL.M. in tax program is well deserved. I hope to continue its proud history.

Joseph Chianese (01) is enrolled in the LL.M. in U.S. legal studies program at Golden Gate University School of Law. He is the owner of J. Chanse Enterprise in Oakland.

Commencement 2003

This year's graduating class was one of the largest in GGU history. More than 200 alumni and graduating students participated in the ceremony at the Masonic Auditorium on Saturday, May 16. The Alumni Welcome was given by University alumni board member Judge Ruth Astle (74). The commencement speaker was Federal Magistrate Judge Maria-Elena James, who is an adjunct faculty member (Evidence) and has hired GGU students as clerks. (The text of her speech appears on pages 7-9.) She is so admired by the students that they requested that she be made an honorary member of the alumni association. This was also the first year we conferred S.J.D. degrees in international legal studies; the two graduates were profiled in the Spring/Summer issue of *ClassAction*.



Fredric Evenson (98) and Brian Acree (98) received the Judith G. McKelvey Outstanding Achievement by Alumni award for their work in environmental law.



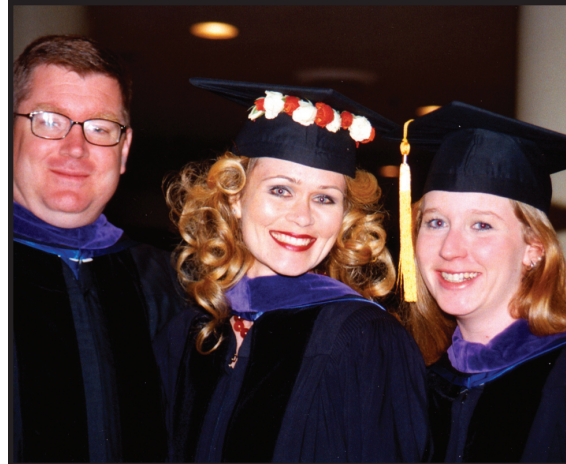
Student farewell speeches were given by (left) Miguel Angel Torres for the J.D. class and Zakia Afrin for the LL.M. class.



Professor and Associate Dean Sompong Sucharitkul gave the S.J.D. degree to Eric Ting-Lun Huang, one of the first two candidates to earn this degree at GGU.



Commencement 2003



The annual graduation banquet was held on May 14 at Delancy Street in San Francisco. TOP: Julia Adams (02) (left) joined graduating students Denée DeLuigi, Jaella Nuovo, Kristina Kaufman, and Rebecca Prozan.



BOTTOM: Professor Sompong Sucharitkul (seated, second from right) celebrated with several international legal studies students. 📖

2003 Swearing-In Ceremony

On Saturday, June 7, 2003, GGU continued a grand tradition of initiating our newest members into the bar by hosting an in-house Swearing-In Ceremony. Graciously presiding over the event was our own Judge Mary Ann (Wetle) O'Malley (83). The alumni welcome was given by alumni board member Judge Ruth Astle (74). The ceremony was followed by a lovely reception for bar passers and their families. Our next ceremony will be in early December. All alumni members are invited.



Hon. Mary (Wetle) O'Malley (83) swore in grads who had passed the February 2003 bar exam.



Bar passers and their friends celebrated at the reception that followed the Swearing-In Ceremony.

ALUMNI RECEPTIONS

The Dean Takes New York City

Dean Peter Keane visted with alumni from the greater Manhattan area on Thursday, October 16. The dean and alumni met up at Café Fiorello in Lincoln Center and swapped stories of their lives in NY while catching up on events here on campus. If you want to receive advance notice of such visits to your part of the country, be sure to sign up for *Law Enews*, our electronic newsletter.

Alumni Student BBQ

On September 10, the Alumni Association welcomed 1L students with an alumni/student BBQ here on campus. University Alumni Association President Jan Orner (B.S., 85) greeted students along with past president John Burke (B.S., 93). Stalwart Law Committee members Karalyn Buchner (J.D., 98), committee chair, and Adrian Hern (J.D., 99) held down the fort with registration and welcomes. Other alumni attended and took the opportunity to meet students and to pass on the "how to survive your first year" advice. Second- and third-year students brought the total attendance to more than 200.

MCLE PROGRAMS

The school sponsors a variety of on-campus MCLE programs each year. Most are free for alumni. Topics range from all-day environmental programs to an evening discussion and skills seminar on impact litigation and class action suits. To be sure you receive the information, sign up for our email newsletter *Law Enews*.

Mark Your Calendar: Don't miss our 2004 "Beat the Clock" MCLE program on Saturday, January 24. You will find interesting classes offered by alumni and faculty members as well as some of those hard-to-find required classes.

CONVENTIONS AND ANNUAL MEETINGS

At the ABA annual meeting and State Bar convention, GGU offered alumni breakfasts for conference attendees and local alumni. This year's breakfast featured former Dean Lani Bader, who gave a school update, and Kimberly Stanley (see page 33), the newly appointed program director for the LL.M. in taxation program. This was a great opportunity to meet other alumni and to find out about the Law School's programs. If you are interested in these events, contact us to learn what we might be planning in your area! Or check out our website before packing your bags: www.ggu.edu/law.

ALUMNI LAW COMMITTEE

The law committee of the University Alumni Association opens its meetings to any interested alumni. In 2004, the emphasis will be on increasing alumni participation at events and building new relationships with graduates. Topics may include mentoring programs, admitted student phone calls, networking, cooperative practice events, and much more. For information about the meetings or to find out what is on the agenda for the next monthly meeting, please contact Law Committee Chair Karayn Buchner at kbuchner@asyouosow.org.

Don't Miss Out!

To find out more about any of these programs, to sign up for the electronic newsletter *Law Enews*, or just to find out more about what is going on at the Law School, contact Law Alumni Relations Director Kevi Brannelly:

Phone: (415) 442-6602

Fax: (415) 442-6609

Email: lawalumni@ggu.edu

(class notes)

continued from page 29

Sam Kim (01) worked at Northrop Grumman from 1988 to March 2002. In April 2002, he opened his law practice in Santa Clara. More than 50 percent of his practice is in business/transactional, but he does a fair share of immigration and personal injury work. In addition, Sam teaches at the Lincoln Law School of San Jose. Sam is also a CPA and CMA with an M.S. in taxation from GGU. He has combined his expertise in these areas and now teaches a class, Accounting for Lawyers. Sam says, "I really enjoy teaching this subject" and his "M.S.T. and J.D. diplomas proudly hang next to each other in my office."

Davina Roche (01) was recognized by the Volunteer Legal Services Program for outstanding work and generous donation of time in the public service. While more than 2,000 others gave of their time, this alum's extraordinary contributions placed her in the top ten percent of VLSP volunteers.

Mary Wilke (01) joined the Law Office of John D. Edgcomb as an associate in the firm's environmental litigation and counseling practice. Mary was previously a legal advisor to the White House Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA task force in Washington, D.C.

Michael J. Apicella (02) joined Kelly Herlihy & Klein LLP in October 2002. Email: mapicella@gguol.ggu.edu.

Matthias Berger (LL.M., 02) has left his position as an attorney in the Business & Finance group for the Frankfurt office of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP. Matthias recently returned to Hamburg and accepted a job as an associate with Harmsen & Utescher, a law firm specialized in Intellectual Property Law with a substantial amount of U.S. business. Email: ra.berger@gmx.de.

Melissa K. Leavister (02) has accepted a position with the law firm of Perry & Spann, P.C. in Reno, Nevada. Her practice areas of interest include products liability, medical malpractice, and insurance defense. Email: mleavister@perryspann.com.

Patrick Reis (02) accepted an offer to work with Kenny & Markowitz in their aviation litigation department.


Khaled Taqi-Eddin (02) is now the proud father of baby Jordan Gabriel Taqi-Eddin. Jordan's mom, Sylvia, gave birth five weeks ahead of schedule. Mother and child are doing well.

Julie Beil (03) was named the Lee Baxter Fellow for the academic year 2003-04. Julie will be working with Professor Segal in the litigation program.

(Rodney) Blaine Jones (03) and his wife Shannyn are now the proud parents of a baby boy. His name is Rodney Blaine Jones III, and he weighed in at 7 lbs, 8oz. Blaine promises his new son is a future Golden Gate University School of Law student!

Sória i Puig (03) had a baby boy (J.D. Roco) on Saturday, May 3. Eva visited Barcelona earlier in the year and was completing her last semester at an internship with UNESCO in Europe.

Gayle Smith (03) was recognized by the Volunteer Legal Services Program for outstanding work and generous donation of time in the public service. While more than 2,000 others gave of their time, this alum's extraordinary contributions placed her in the top ten percent of VLSP volunteers. Gayle also received the CALI award for client advocacy. Gayle reports that she is studying for the bar exam. After the exam, she plans to spend a month in Tulum, Mexico, where she will study Spanish. While awaiting her bar results, she will continue her volunteer work as well as look for a permanent position.

Special thanks to Adrian Hern (99) for compiling Class Notes. 

CLASS Action

Class Notes Deadlines: March 15, September 15

Let Us Hear From You!

We'd like to know if you have made a career move, changed your address, added to your family, or received an award. Photos welcomed and appreciated.

Mail, fax, or email to:
Law Alumni Relations
Golden Gate University
School of Law
536 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Fax: (415) 442-6609
Email: lawalumni@ggu.edu

Name _____	Class Year _____
Email _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sign me up for the newsletter <i>Law eNews</i>
Home Address _____	New Address? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
City _____	State _____ Zip _____ Date _____
Home Phone (____) _____	Business Phone (____) _____
Firm/Organization _____	Position _____
Business Address _____	New Address? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
News Item _____	

New Law School Dean Selected

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 1

Swearing-In Ceremony

January 24

All-day "Beat the Clock" MCLE Program

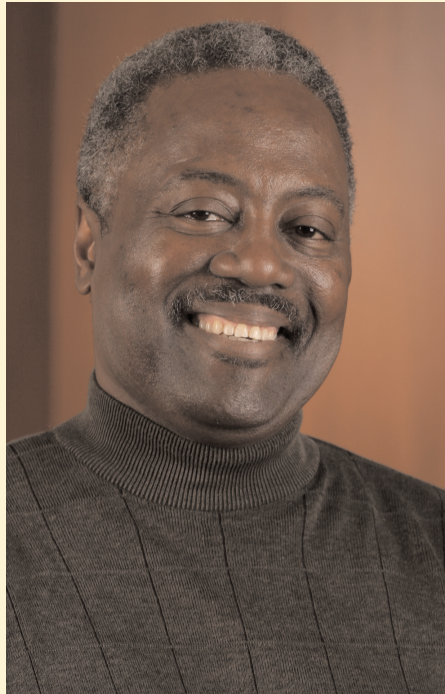
February 26

Alumni-hosted hospitality suite and evening reception at the bar exam

March 5

Third Annual IP Law Conference

For information about these events, contact Law Alumni Relations Director Kevi Brannelly at (415) 442-6602 or lawalumni@ggu.edu.



Frederic White from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law has accepted the post of dean at Golden Gate University School of Law. He will begin officially as of June 1, 2004. White received his J.D. from Columbia University School of Law in New York and brings expertise in administrative law, land use control, local government, wills and trusts, and property to his new position. He has served as the associate dean for Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, and has extensively published both legal and non-legal writings. He has been recognized for excellence in teaching and has been listed in *Who's Who Among Black Americans* since 1988. Outgoing Dean Peter Keane says, "Fred White is a talented administrator, gifted scholar, and a warm, congenial person. He is the perfect choice for Golden Gate University School of Law."

White is an active member of the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) and the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) and has served on site-inspection teams for the latter. "We are proud and delighted that Professor White will be leading our Law School and joining our team. His energy, focus, and commitment to legal education is an exact fit for what our university has represented for over a hundred years and promises to be as a quality urban, professional school," said Dr. Philip Friedman, president of Golden Gate University.

"I feel that the similarities between our law schools make this a natural progression," says Professor White. "For over 100 years, both Golden Gate and Cleveland State University law schools have been providing access to a first rate education in law where there might not otherwise be any. GGU is a good school, and I hope to help make it great."

White will serve as a consultant to the university in the role of acting dean from January through May 2004. On June 1, he will formally assume the position of dean of the School of Law.

CLASS ACTION

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY

School of Law
536 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA
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